

Amendment dated February 6, 2006
Second Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A hinge arrangement for the front door of a cabinet (10) having a lower front edge (11), characterized in that it comprises comprising a hinge body (20) incorporating a front portion (20a) and a rear portion (20b), affixed to the lower front edge (11) of the cabinet (10) and carrying an upwardly projecting hinge pin (30), maintaining a certain spacing from the lower front edge (11) of the cabinet (10) and around which the front door is inferiorly journalled; a shoe (40) inferiorly mounted to the hinge body (20) according to a vertical axis, maintaining said certain spacing from the lower front edge (11) of the cabinet (10), said shoe (40) being selectively manually displaced towards said axis between an inoperative position, in which it is operatively spaced from the floor (P) that supports the cabinet (10), and an operative position, in which it is seated on the floor (P), in order to transfer to the latter the weight of the front door and to lock the cabinet (10) against displacements on the floor (P).
2. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the hinge pin (30) presents a lower portion (31), to be removably affixed into a corresponding bore (26) provided in the hinge body (20), and an upper portion (32), projecting upwardly in relation to the latter.
3. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 2, characterized in that wherein the hinge pin (30) incorporates a median flange (33) to be seated on the hinge body

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(20) so as to define an axial bearing to support, inferiorly, the front door.

4. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the shoe (40) is coupled to a shoe pin (41) that is removably affixed into a corresponding bore (26) provided in the hinge body (20).
5. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the hinge pin (30) has its lower portion (31) rotatably locked in the hinge body (20) when fitted inside the respective bore (26) of the latter.
6. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the bore (26) of the hinge body (20) presents a lower portion (26a) of smaller diameter, and an upper portion (26b) of larger diameter and with a non-circular cross section.
7. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the lower portion (31) of the hinge pin (30) incorporates an enlargement (34) which is fitted and locked against rotation inside the upper portion (26b) of the bore (26) of the hinge body (20), while the lower portion (31) is fitted with a small gap inside the lower portion (26a) of the bore (26) of the hinge body (20).
8. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the lower portion (26a) of

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the bore (26) of the hinge body (20) is threaded along at least part of its longitudinal extension.

9. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the shoe pin (41) is provided with an external thread to be threaded inside the lower portion (26a) of a respective bore (26) of the hinge body (20).
10. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the bores (26) for the fixation of the hinge pin (30) and the shoe pin (41) are identical and disposed side by side, with their axes lying on a plane that is parallel to the lower front edge (11) of the cabinet (10).
11. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the hinge body (20) incorporates, medianly, an upper flange (21) disposed between a front portion (20a) and a rear portion (20b) of the hinge body (20), said upper flange (21) and rear portion (20b) being respectively seated and affixed against the lower front edge (11) and under an adjacent lower wall portion (12) of the cabinet (10).
12. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 11, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the upper flange (21) and the rear portion (20b) of the hinge body (20) are provided with bores (22, 24) for the passage of respective front screws (23) and lower screws (25) to be threaded into respective bores (13, 15) provided in the lower front edge (11) and in the lower wall portion (12) of the cabinet (10).

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13. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 11, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the hinge body (20) further carries, inferiorly, a roller (70) for displacing the cabinet (10) on the floor (P).
14. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in claim 12, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the roller (70) is journaled in a lower projection (28) of the rear extension (20b) of the hinge body (20).
15. (Currently amended) The hinge arrangement as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1-14~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ ~~comprises comprising~~ two hinge bodies (20) secured to the lower front edge (11) of the cabinet (10), one of said hinge bodies (20) carrying, inferiorly, a shoe (40) and being affixed close to the end of the lower front edge (11) turned to the opening side of the front door, and the other hinge body (20) carrying, inferiorly, a shoe (40) and, superiorly, a hinge pin (30) and being affixed to the end of the lower front door (11) turned to the hinge side of the front door.